GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:574
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR SABARIMALA TEMPLE
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government so far to hand over the forest land to Travancore Devaswom Board at Sabarimala, Kerala to facilitate primary amenities to crores of Lord Ayyappa Devotees on the basis of Joint Inspection Committee Report; and

(b) the hectares of land handed over to the Board for construction of cardiology centre at Sabarimala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Hon`ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha under the chairmanship of Shri O. Rajagopal, Ministerof State, Government ofIndia, the State Government had submitted a proposal for diversion of 0.6 ha. of forest land at Pamba inside Periyar Tiger Reserve for Water Treatment Plant. Standing Committee of Indian Board for Wildlife has concurred with the proposal in its meeting on 26.2.2002.

(b)No forest land is proposed to be transferred to the Board for construction ofcardiology centre at Sabarimala. The Interpretation Centre on Pamba-Sannidhanam route has been modified and upgraded by the State Government for use as Cardiology Centre.